



ECHO convened at the Clark County Public Service Center, 6th Floor, Hearing Conference Room, also via WebEx Online.

Clark County ECHO

(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)

Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023

AMENDED MINUTES:

- OCTOBER 27, 2023, BASED ON DISCUSSION DURING OCTOBER 10, 2023, MEETING.
 - The report presented by Michael Torres, “Homeless Program Outcomes and discussion on gaps in services” presentation, was updated on 10/12/2023, minutes now reflect updated numbers. In addition, the source document on the 2022 annual system data that is posted online was updated. [ZIP-COUNTY-FIPS 2018-03.csv \(councilforthehomeless.org\)](#)

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvigy, called the ECHO meeting to-order.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle to **APPROVE** minutes for August 8, 2023. Councilor Michelle Belkot seconded the motion. All aye/motion passed.

HOMELESS PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION ON GAPS IN SERVICES (continued)

- Presented by Michael Torres
 - Where are people experiencing homelessness from.
 - Adults that voluntarily provided their last address before they became homeless.
 - That’s over 80% of the people that touched the system and got assessed for housing to receive services.
 - Presented by zip code throughout the County and States.
 - Washington State has 4,643 people which is 87.2% of people that are homeless.
 - Clark County 81.0% = 4,310
 - Vancouver 46.0% = 2,447
 - Total number recorded of adults experiencing homelessness in 2022 was 5,324.
 - Based on data and word of mouth it appears that it is easier to access services for homelessness in Portland than in Vancouver.
 - There is a one-night (last night) requirement of homelessness to receive services from Council for the Homeless.
 - What are people experiencing homelessness saying caused it? (Self-Reporting)
 - Cannot Afford Housing – 25%
 - Domestic Violence – 15%
 - Household Crisis – 11%
 - Eviction – 8%
 - Substance/Alcohol dependency – 4%
 - Racial Disparities
 - People of color are significantly more likely to experience poverty and homelessness in Clark County, Washington.
 - GAPS
 - Improve coordination between Homeless Continuum of Care and Mental Health/Behavioral Health Systems.
 - Increase Outreach, Shelter, and Supportive Housing
 - Increases in Shelter AND Supportive Housing capacity.



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- Without a continuum of care and services...
 - If a community does not have tools to assess needs, coordination, and measurement:
 - It cannot identify or prioritize populations effectively for services or improve/adapt.
 - Without service options (mh/bh, shelter, housing, supports) to connect persons experiencing homelessness to:
 - Outreach Teams are left to hand out water, address basic needs.
 - Without exit ramps for Shelter or Transitional Housing into long-term stability:
 - Shelter beds fill and stagnate, and utility and “livability” of shelters deteriorates.
 - Without effective Outreach and service entry coordination process:
 - Supportive Housing will not access the populations that need it.

CITIES OUTREACH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY ON HOMELESS ACTION PLANNING PROCESS (continued)

Presented by Counsel for the Homeless & Michael Torres

- Homeless Action Plan, Planning Process
- Phase 1: Individual meetings with stakeholders and elected officials – County and CFTH Staff will participate in the discussion and facilitation; September 2023 – January 2024
- Phase 2: Based on the information gathered in individual meetings, community forums will be scheduled in each of the above communities at the location suggested by elected officials. This will include service providers i.e., behavioral health, SUD, medical, law enforcement; local government, general community, and target populations.
 - Community Forums/Surveys – Scheduling; February – March 2024
- Phase 3: Community Forums – Facilitating/Gathering Information; April – June 2024
 - Receive and review updated HAP guidance state plan and strategy objectives; June – July 2024
- Phase 4: Create Draft 1 of HAP; June – August 2024
- Phase 5: Create Second Draft of HAP; August – October 2024
- Phase 6: Draft is submitted to ECHO and COC Steering Committee for reviews, edits, and approval; November – December 2024
- Phase 7: Prepare to submit plan to commerce.
- Homeless Action Plan Planning Process, January – April 2025

UPDATE FROM EACH ENTITY AND ANY SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

- Counsel for the Homeless: NONE
- Vancouver Housing Authority: NONE
- Community Foundation for SW WA: NONE
- Clark County: Councilor Michelle Belkot asked, “how has the limitation on camping Portland impacted the City/County”. Per Jamie Spinelli, even though it’s a small number, it’s a noticeable amount.
- City of Vancouver: Starting work on the downtown “Safe Stay” in the next week or so with an opening aimed for October – November; site 4 to begin starting soon after.
- City of Battle Ground: NONE
- City of Camas: NONE
- City of La Center: NONE
- City of Ridgefield: NONE
- City of Washougal: Julie Rusell wanted to make sure she is on the list for the Homeless Action Plan and was wondering about the growing homeless camp at the 205 South exit on to Mill Plain.

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON



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ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Add to next agenda:
 - Per Mayor Anne ECHO Legislative Recommendations to the County; to bring the priorities from our cities, discuss them in October ECHO and send them to the County, then at the legislative breakfast with the Southwest Washington Delegation, they will then understand the voice of SW Washington and our needs as they move forward.
 - Per Councilor Perez; Childcare of prevention, the concept of a solution centered workshop, and more understanding of the core responder model.

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2023, 9:30am – 11am

mp